Virtual Field Trips in Geology:

From Previewing to Grading, A User’s Guide
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Virtual Field Trips in Geology: User’s Guide

For Instructors
HOW TO PREVIEW VIRTUAL FIELD TRIPS IN GEOLOGY

Go to http://login.cengage.com to log in to your Cengage Learning faculty account, or register for a new one.

Search by ISBN 0495560685 to find the available field trips.

Select Virtual Field Trips in Geology (Complete Set of 15) to add the entire collection of field trips at once. Click Add to My Bookshelf.

HELPFUL TIP

Not sure if you have an account? Try your school email address and click Forgot Password.
To access Virtual Field Trips in Geology, click on the link under My Course. This will open them in CengageNOW, where they can be previewed, assigned, and graded.

To preview the field trips, click on the Study Tools tab. Ensure Virtual Field Trips in Geology is selected as the textbook and click Personalize Study Plan to open.
The complete list of field trips is listed in the window and in a drop-down menu alphabetically. Select the field trip you want to preview.

**HELPFUL TIP**

Want to learn how students will complete a field trip? See page 14.

**HOW TO ADOPT VIRTUAL FIELD TRIPS IN GEOLOGY**

Virtual Field Trips in Geology comes in a complete set of 15, as well as in packages of 5. For greatest flexibility, the Complete Set is recommended. You can view the breakdowns, see a demo, and get other product information at [http://www.cengage.com/earthscience/sethi/vft](http://www.cengage.com/earthscience/sethi/vft).


**SUGGESTIONS FOR USING VIRTUAL FIELD TRIPS IN CLASS**

Virtual Field Trips in Geology are even more flexible than physical field trips, with much less planning and expense to boot. The following list are suggestions; feel free to be as creative as you want in assigning these field trips.

- **As a homework assignment**: Assign field trips to help students better understand the important geologic concepts. These may be called field trips, but they are so much more – with three levels of critical thinking questions, lots of interactive features, and a format that engages students. Even if you don’t normally assign homework, consider trying it out with Virtual Field Trips – you can expect higher rates of conceptual understanding.
In conjunction with a physical field trip: Virtual Field Trips can help your students prepare for a physical field trip, let you check their comprehension after a field trip, or allow them to compare a local example with a historic national park.

Supplement a physical field trip: Budget cuts? Limited access to locations with meaningful geologic examples? Virtual Field Trips can fill in those needs.

As extra credit or remediation: Were some students unable to make a physical field trip, couldn’t complete another homework assignment, or perhaps are struggling with certain concepts? Consider assigning a Virtual Field Trip to bridge the gap.

In class as a review or lecture-launcher: With their utilization of famous locations throughout the US, including Hawaii Volcanoes and Grand Canyon National Parks, the Virtual Field Trips can be a great way to get students’ attention in class and show examples of key concepts. Explore the panorama with them, play a video, or take them through the Google Earth layer with its additional points of interest.

HOW TO CREATE A COURSE

Click the Courses tab and click the Create a New Course button.

Select Sethi, Virtual Field Trips in Geology as your textbook, if it’s not already selected. Fill in the remaining course information. Once you’ve set up a course, you will then be able to create sections, if desired. You may link or upload your syllabus.
Once you have set up your course, a Course Key will be generated. This code should be provided to the students in the course in order to receive assignments and submit them to your gradebook.

HELPFUL TIP

Not ready to share your Course Key? No problem! It’s saved under Courses, and can be emailed, copied, or printed at your convenience.

ASSIGNING A VIRTUAL FIELD TRIP

Click the Assignments tab. Ensure the related course is selected and click Create Assignment.

Select Assignable Study Tool and click Continue.
Give the assignment a name and choose the date you want it to be available to your students. You may choose a due date or leave it open. If you want to make the assignment unavailable on a date other than the due date, uncheck the box and select the date. Click Continue.

Click to expand the available field trips, and select the field trip you want to assign. Click Continue.

Select the options you want for the assignment, including number of takes, time allowed, grade style, etc. Note: The recommended allowed takes is 1, since quizzes within the field trips are static. Click Create Assignment to finish. You may preview it as a student, edit the assignment, and more.

HELPFUL TIP
You can save your assignment preferences for future use. Just select what you want and click Save As New Set.
The auto-graded score for assigned Virtual Field Trips is based on the multiple-choice quizzes. Once a student has completed a field trip, their quizzes will be scored and sent to your Gradebook. To view the scores, go to the Gradebook tab. To view a particular student’s score, click on the percentage underneath the assignment.

The Gradebook produces three grade views for you, depending on your needs: 1) An overall score from the auto-graded quiz (Figure A); 2) As a text report, showing their Critical Thinking and Quiz answers; and 3) the actual field trip as the student submitted it. This last view will show you the student’s Interactive Question answers.

HELPFUL TIP
Don’t want to grade all of the Critical Thinking Questions? Consider spot-checking answers and assigning credit instead.
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For Students
GETTING ACCESS TO VIRTUAL FIELD TRIPS IN GEOLOGY

Go to www.cengagebrain.com to register or purchase an access code to Virtual Field Trips in Geology. If you already have a Cengage Brain account, you may log in. Otherwise, click Sign Up to create an account.

If you’ve already purchased access, either with a textbook, as a printed access card, or online, enter it into the registration box and click Register. If you don’t have an access code, check with your instructor about which to order.

Once you’ve registered, you may access the Virtual Field Trips, or click on the Free Study Tools link for additional resources such as Frequently Asked Questions.
Your instructor should provide you with a **Course Key** so that you may register to receive assignments and submit grades. It should look something like **E-Y5RKWWZMPSY55**. Enter it under the **Courses** tab.

You may then check for assignments. If you have an assignment, click **Take** when you are ready to begin.

A **note before you begin**: If you are unable to finish a field trip in one sitting, you may click **Save and Exit** to save your work to return to later. You will receive a confirmation it was saved, and will be brought back to the same point in the field trip upon your return. Both new and in-progress assignments can be found under the **Assignments** tab.
COMPLETING AN ASSIGNMENT

Before you begin your field trip, you may want to review the top tabs, including the Objectives for the field trip, the master itinerary (Destinations), and the basic concepts you should understand for the field trip (Concepts). We’ll explore the Aerial View a little later.

Below is an overview of the field trip’s layout, including:

- The media window. This will display maps, images, videos, and panoramas for you to explore as part of the field trip.
- The text pane, which acts as your field guide, explaining what you see in the media window, providing directions, and posing questions for you to answer.
- And the table of contents, which outlines all of the points of interest on your field trip. It will track your progress and you go through and answer the questions. Once you have submitted answers to the question at a point of interest, a red check mark will appear in the box next to it, indicating you may move on. Once all check boxes are marked, the field trip is complete. You may hide the Contents to expand the text pane.
Each Hotspot will have a Critical Thinking Question for you to answer. Most photographs also have an Interactive Question. All questions must be answered before you submit your field trip for grading, or the system will not record a grade.

To answer an Interactive Question, click on the area of the photograph that answers the question. You will get immediate feedback upon clicking. Though this question type is not graded, you must answer them to complete the field trip. Your instructor will be able to see if you got it correct or not.

To answer a Critical Thinking Question, type in your answer to the box underneath the question and click Submit.

In some instances, a question may refer to Outlines. To reveal these notations, click the Show Outlines button below the photograph.
After you’ve completed a section of the field trip, you will be presented with a Quiz. Each question has a thumbnail you may expand to see the related image to refresh your memory. Use this to answer the question, if needed. Select an answer for each question and click Submit. You will receive immediate feedback. Note: Quiz scores will be recorded in the Gradebook, so answer carefully.

Once you have answered all of the questions for the Hotspot, you will get a red check mark in the box in the Contents window (Figure A, below). Once you have submitted answers to all questions, you will see check marks in all of the boxes, including the field trip’s name (Figure B, below).

Figure A. Contents window during a field trip.  
Figure B. Contents window showing a completed field trip, ready for submission
Once you have answered all of the questions and have check marks in all of the boxes (see Figure B, above), click **Submit Assignment for Grading.**

Upon confirming your submission, you will receive a confirmation it was submitted, along with a score.

You can find your grades later under the **Grades** tab.
**Frequently Asked Questions**

*Where do I start?*
To prepare for the field trip, review the top tabs, particularly the Concepts tab. If you haven’t already, read the Getting Started guide. Once you are ready to begin, click on the “Begin Field Trip” button on the homepage or select a location from the main map. You may then use the Back and Next buttons (top right corner) to follow the itinerary, or select a location from the graphics pane or Table of Contents.

*What are these orange words?*
The orange words are key terms. Virtual Field Trips is equipped with a hover glossary, so you can easily access the definition. To reveal the definition, simply hover your mouse over the word. Rocks and minerals also contain thumbnails of lab specimens.

*I’m not able to use the speakers on this computer – are the videos captioned?*
The scripts for the videos may be found in the text pane to the left of the video.

*What do the different colored outlines mean on the photographs?*
White outlines indicate a particular area you should pay attention to, and are discussed in the text pane. They may be turned on and off using the Show/Hide Outlines button at the bottom of the photo viewer.

Yellow outlines indicate the correct answer for the Interactive Questions. These outlines are revealed once you click on the photograph to answer the question. They are a learning exercise, meant to help you practice what you’ve learned. These interactive answers are not submitted to gradebook, but must be answered in order to complete the field trip.

*What happens to my answers to the hotspot and quiz questions once I’ve pressed submit?*
If you are unsure you are linked to a gradebook, check with your instructor.

*I’m lost – how can I tell where I am?*
The best way to figure out where you are is in the Table of Contents, located below the text pane on the left. Your current location is highlighted, placed you still need to visit are in red, and places you have already visited are in gray. You may also tell where you are by referring to the breadcrumbs, located right below the top gray tabs.

*What do the check marks mean in the Table of Contents?*
Once you have submitted the answers for a hotspot, it is checked off automatically in the Table of Contents. Once you have completed a section, the section’s main folder is also checked off. Use this as a guide to ensure you complete the entire field trip.

*I don’t have Google Earth, how can I get it?*
Google Earth is available as a free download for both Mac and PC at [http://earth.google.com](http://earth.google.com).